

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system ~~{10}~~ for a lean burn internal combustion engine, which system comprising a particulate filter ~~{12}~~ disposed between an inlet ~~{18}~~ and an outlet and means for deflecting at least some exhaust gas flowing in the system away from entering the filter at a point immediately opposite the inlet, wherein the deflecting means comprises a deflector ~~{14}~~ disposed on the inlet side of the filter, which deflector comprising an upstream end having a first cross sectional area and a downstream end having a second cross sectional area, wherein the second cross sectional area \rightarrow is greater than the first cross sectional area, and wherein the deflector is in the shape of a cone or a frusto-cone, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the deflector comprises a flow through substrate comprising at least two channels which are parallel to one another.
2. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1 ~~to 2~~, wherein the cone or frusto-cone is squashed in at least one dimension about a central, longitudinal axis.
3. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein the deflector is made of a metal.
4. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the deflector comprises a catalyst.
5. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~5~~ 4, wherein the catalyst is for oxidising NO in the exhaust gas to NO₂.
6. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~5 or 6~~, wherein the catalyst comprises ~~an optionally supported~~ at least one supported platinum group metal (PGM).
7. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~7~~ 6, wherein the at least one PGM ~~comprises~~ is platinum.
8. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the deflecting means comprises a lateral washcoat gradient on the filter, whereby the

backpressure in a region of the filter immediately opposite the inlet→ is greater than backpressure in an area peripheral to said region.

9. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the deflecting means comprises a lateral gradient of a catalyst loading on the filter, whereby the catalyst loading in a region of the filter immediately opposite the inlet← is less than catalyst loading in an area peripheral to said region.
10. (Original) An exhaust system according to claim-10 ~~9~~, wherein the catalyst comprises at least one PGM, ~~optionally platinum~~.
11. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the inlet is immediately opposite the centre of the filter.
12. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the filter is a wall-flow filter.
13. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the filter is of non-circular cross-section.
14. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the shape of the deflector in cross-section is the same as, or similar to, the shape of filter in cross-section.
15. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the filter comprises a catalyst.
16. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim-23 ~~15~~, wherein the catalyst comprises ~~an optionally supported~~ at least one supported PGM.
17. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim-24 ~~16~~, wherein the at least one PGM ~~includes~~ is platinum.
18. (Currently Amended) An internal combustion engine including an exhaust system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~.
19. (Currently Amended) An engine according to claim-26 ~~18~~, wherein it is a diesel engine.

20. (Original) A method of more evenly distributing particulate matter in a flowing exhaust gas across a particulate filter disposed in an exhaust system, which method comprising deflecting at least some exhaust gas flowing in the system away from entering the filter at a point immediately opposite an inlet wherein the deflecting means comprises a deflector disposed on the inlet side of the filter, which deflector comprising an upstream end having a first cross sectional area and a downstream end having a second cross sectional area, wherein the second cross sectional area → is greater than the first cross sectional area, and wherein the deflector is in the shape of a cone or a frusto-cone, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the deflector comprises a flow through substrate comprising at least two channels which are parallel to one another.
21. An exhaust system according to claim 10, wherein the at least one PGM is platinum.